(d) No Sir. The Government of India has initiated a programme of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) with regard to usage of chemical pesticides. IPM is an eco-friendly approach, which encompasses cultural, mechanical, biological and need based chemical control measures. As a result of implementation of IPM programme, there is considerable reduction in the consumption of pesticides from 61,357 MT (Technical Grade) during 1994-95 to 49,157 MT (Technical Grade) during 1998-99. Use of integrated nutrients through chemical fertilizers and organic sources like biofertilizers, compost/ vermicompost is being encouraged so as to improve and maintain soil fertility and make cheaper source of plant nutrients available to the crops.

Animal testing of new drugs

2774. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban on animal testing in the country is creating hurdles in research and development efforts of Indian pharma companies;

(b) if so, how the companies are supposed to test new medicines; and

(c) the action proposed to help the Indian firms which are compelled to plan animal testing from aboard, for R&D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Pharmaceutical companies are required to follow the rules and procedures prescribed for animal experimentation under Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998.

Assistance to Pharma PSUs

2775. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the financial or other means that have been provided to PSUs in pharma industry, to face competition from the private sector, both Indian and MNCs, during the last five years;